

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 01109 142252Z

70

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05 IO-10

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P 142206Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9947

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E. O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: CIVAIR--PAN AM SERVICE AND BILATERAL TALKS

REF: A. BUENOS AIRES 0978, B. STATE 029232, C. BUENOS AIRES 0812

1. EMBASSY LEARNED FEB. 13 THAT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS RESOLUTION (PARA 1, REFTEL A) ACTUALLY SIGNED BY NOVARO FEB. 7 AS RESOLUTION NO. 139, AND NOT DELAYED UNTIL THIS WEEK. SINCE PAN AM (PA) NOW HAS UNTIL ABOUT MAR. 21 TO OPERATE FLIGHT 515/516 AS ORIGINALLY FILED, DELIVERY OF NOTE CONTAINED REFTEL B DOES NOT NOW SEEM APPROPRIATE.

2. AS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED WITH GOA AUTHORITIES AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH EMBASSY NOTE OF DEC. 10 AND FONOFF NOTE OF JAN. 31 (REFTEL C), EMBASSY BELIEVES WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH PRELIMINARY BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS SOONEST. GOA, WE ASSUME, WILL NOT BE READY TO PROCEED UNTIL NEW DIRECTOR FOR DNTAC APPOINTED. MEANWHILE, BELIEVE EMBASSY SHOULD SEND REPLY TO FONOFF NOTE ACKNOWLEDGING ITS RECEIPT AND STATING OUR READINESS TO PROCEED AS SOON AS THEY ARE PREPARED TO DO SO. (PURPOSE OF THIS NOTE WOULD BE ONLY TO KEEP RECORD CLEAR THAT WE READY TO PROCEED AND THAT INITIATIVE UP TO THEM.)

3. WITH REGARD TO NEXT STEPS, OUR IDEA WAS TO HAVE FIRST AN INFORMAL SESSION OR SESSION BETWEEN ECON COUNS AND
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 01109 142252Z

REPS OF FONOFF AND DNTAC. AT THIS SESSION WE WOULD DIS-

CUSS IN GENERAL TERMS WHAT THE SCOPE OF THE TALKS MIGHT BE AND THE GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF US AND ARGENTINE CARRIERS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS AS TO INITIAL OBJECTIVES TO BE SET FORTH BY US, BUT SINCE EMBASSY WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO ASK FOR INSTRUCTIONS WE WOULD EXPECT THAT AT THE FIRST MEETING US WOULD NOT HAVE TO TAKE A POSITION BUT COULD ASK ARGENTINES WHAT THEY HAVE IN MIND. OUR VIEW IS THAT PURPOSE OF PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION WOULD BE: A) TO ESTABLISH SIMPLEST AND MOST OBVIOUS OBJECTIVES E4G., INCREASED FREQUENCIES FOR US CARRIERS, DEFINITIVE SETTLEMENT OF PA SCHEDULING PROBLEM AND POSSIBLY INTRODUCTION OF WIDE-BODIED JETS; AND B) WHETHER NEGOTIATING CLIMATE IS SUCH THAT FORMAL BILATERAL TALKS SHOULD BE HELD TO TRY AGAIN FOR AGREEMENT ON A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OR AIR TRANSPORT SERVICE AGREEMENT.

4. A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO RESOLVING THE CIVAIR PROBLEM WAS SUGGESTED BY FONOFF SUBSECRETARY MOLINA SALAS AND AMBASSADOR BECKMANN DURING CONVERSATION DEC. 6 (BUENOS AIRES 8934) AND ALSO BY TRANSPORT SUBSECRETARY CERRAJERIA IN LATER CONVERSATION. THEY URGED ECON COUNS TO REQUEST US AUTHORITIES CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF AUTHORIZING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PA, BRANIFF, AND AEROLINEAS SO THAT AN UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE CARRIERS CONCERNING OBJECTIVES COULD BE REACHED BEFORE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS TOOK PLACE. ALL THREE OFFICIALS STRESSED THAT IN THEIR VIEW IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE KEEP DNTAC OUT OF PICTURE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND BEST WAY TO DO THIS MIGHT BE TO LET CARRIERS AGREE FIRST AMONG THEMSELVES. ECOM COUNS SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER USG AUTHORITIES COULD PERMIT THIS UNDER US LAW, BUT WOULD REPORT SUGGESTION TO WASHINGTON. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS SUGGESTION IS USEFUL AND WELL INTENDED, AND COULD WORK IF ONLY QUESTIONS OF FREQUENCY AND CAPACITY WERE INVOLVED. WE SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT GOA WILL BRING UP QUESTION OF RIGHTS BEYOND CARACAS TO NEW YORK FOR AEROLINEAS AND, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, SUCH QUESTIONS WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR AIRLINE DISCUSSION. WE ALSO DO NOT KNOW BRANIFF AND PA HEADQUARTERS WOULD VIEW THIS PROCEDURE. THEIR LOCAL REPS DO NOT VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ALTHOUGH THEY FULLY AGREE THAT IT IS MUCH BETTER FOR THEM TO DO BUSINESS WITH AEROLINEAS THAN WITH THE DNTAC.

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 01109 142252Z

5. EMBASSY WILL HAVE FURTHER SUGGESTIONS ON SUBSTANCE OF PRELIMINARY TALKS.

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